

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



June 2005 VOLUME 12 NUMBER 4

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SUMMERTIME IS FOR WEEDING

How does a library with a limited amount of space continue to serve its customers in the most effective way? The Fiske Library collection has more than doubled in size in the past ten years, yet the physical space is constant. How do we accommodate further growth? The answer may be “weeding.”

The Library has a well defined collection area: those states found from the Atlantic seaboard westward through the first tier of states on the west bank of the Mississippi River, the states of the Old Oregon Country, eastern Canada, and those European countries that supported immigrant streams into our North American collection area.

Our collection area policy means that we do not seek out new genealogical resources from the American Southwest or from the Rocky Mountain states, yet we occasionally receive donations from those states. Do we keep such gifts? Or, do they occupy shelf space that would be better devoted to more New England resources?

Within our collection focus, many holdings may be rarely used. Should

we keep them even if only used once a year? Or only once in every five years? Ten Years?

With the growing number of genealogical and historical books available on the internet in good digital formats, do we keep the same books on the shelf or do we keep only a finding aid that helps patrons access those books on line? Do we commit more books to digital format on CD-ROM disks?

Does a book begin to lose its appeal as it ages? Will it eventually become so “out-dated” that it should be removed from the collection? In a genealogy library, it is often the 19th Century family history that contains the information most difficult to find by 21st Century researchers.

Fiske Library is trying to find its own “policy” on weeding its collection. Summertime is a good time to focus on weeding. If you have thoughts on how we could make our collections more user friendly and more useful to your research, send us a message -- via e-mail or snail mail -- because your input on how we can serve you better is always appreciated.

Gary A. Zimmerman
President





MISSING FRIENDS: IN SEARCH OF IRISH IMMIGRANTS

For ninety years, from 1831 to 1921, a Catholic newspaper in Boston, *The Boston Pilot* or *The Pilot*, ran advertisements seeking information about “missing” Irish immigrants. The Irish Studies Program at Boston College now has a search engine on the internet that allows the names and locations cited in these advertisements to be retrieved by family history researchers.

Access to the database can be found at <http://infowanted.bc.edu/>. So far, over 31,700 records have been placed in the database. You can search for a specific individual or you can search for only the surname. The program will return variant spellings that sound like your search request.

A search for males with the surname McElroy returned 19 ads, which appeared between 1847 and 1859. For example, Patrick McElroy of Waukesha, Wisconsin, submitted an ad in February 1856, asking for the whereabouts of his brother, John McElroy, who was last heard from in 1852. The ad reports that John had come from County Louth, Dunbin Parish, in the Townland of Kilcuny/Kilcurly, in the barony of Dundalk Upper and the Poor Law District of Dundalk. That level of detail on the origin of this John McElroy is exactly what an American genealogist would need to effectively look for his origins in Ireland. This ad further notes that John McElroy originally came to Maine when he immigrated to the United States.

One month later, another brother, Michael McElroy, also of Waukesha, submitted an ad to *The Pilot*, looking for John, and stating explicitly that the missing brother had come to Maine in 1852.

An “advanced search” format allows you to retrieve all of the queries for a single county or parish of origin in Ireland, or to search the first five locations

known after the arrival in the United States. Because the Irish often moved about looking for work after arriving in the country, this can be very helpful. A search for Irish who were in Savannah, Georgia returned 78 hits. Michael Tobin was being sought by his sister, Hannah Tobin, who was living in Manchester, New Hampshire. Her ad in *The Pilot* for 23 November 1850 said that Michael had arrived at the port of Quebec in October 1847 and that he had subsequently located in Savannah, Georgia. A second insertion in the newspaper in December 1850 added the information that the Michael Tobin she was seeking had come from County Clare, Kilfarboy Parish, in Milltown Malbay townland, Ibrickan barony and was from the Poor Law district of Ennistimon.

During the 1820’s, Irish immigrants to the United States numbered about 5,000 per year and most settled in either New York or Boston. By the 1840’s, Irish immigration had increased to 78,000 per year and by the 1850’s, the figure was over 90,000 per year. This database has mention of only a small fraction of these immigrants, but these entries are among the hardest to trace because they were lost even to their own contemporary families.

Boston College has a degree program in Irish studies. The website offers an extensive research guide for doing Irish Genealogy at <http://www.bc.edu/libraries/research/guides/s-irishgene/> and similar information on Irish history and on Irish and Irish-American newspapers. All of the items cited in these research guides can be found at the Boston College library in Boston.

Gary A. Zimmerman

DANISH RESEARCH IDEAS

If you are trying to trace your family lines back to Denmark, you should become familiar with a fascinating website developed by Gary Horlacher in Salt Lake City and now available at <http://www.progenealogists.com/denmark/>.

(While the host for this website is a group of professional genealogists who offer research consultation and record retrieval from the Family History Library, the pages described here are freely available over the internet. No registration or direct contact with the ProGenealogists group is necessary. The Fiske Library is not making any recommendation on their professional services.)

This collection of articles about Danish research places a growing list of resources at your disposal. There are informative essays on how to do research in Danish cities, how to become acquainted with Danish naming customs, and how to track down relatively uncommon resources when the easy channels of research offer no assistance for your family.

Those “easier sources” for Danish research are usually church records, census records, military levying rolls, and the probate records.

Horlacher’s essay on “Advanced Danish Research” acquaints you with “binding contracts” that were used during most of the 18th Century. These were something like a deed, by which a farmer would have the use of someone’s land for the farmer’s lifetime, but the lord still held ultimate title to the land. These contracts were also used for a life-long contractual arrangement for a person to be bound to a house for his lifetime. Yearly rents were paid to the underlying land-

owner, but the contract holder knew that he could count on housing until he died. Horlacher goes on to show you what is in the contracts and how to find them in the Family History Library collections.

Similar introductions are made for the Extra Tax Lists for levies that were promulgated from 1572 to 1762, to Land Registration Lists that were made in 1660, 1680 and 1688, to the Land Books that were done yearly from 1572 to 1660 and periodically thereafter in some areas until the 1700’s. (These Land Books were more like registers of “feudal dues” that owed annually to the underlying lord of the district.) The Military Reserve Lists of 1700/1701, 1733 and 1741 identified lists of men who could be selected for duty as soldiers or reserve soldiers.



The discussion of how to use the Danish school census of 1735-9 is also an insightful glimpse of records that will help you identify families in the years before the first general census in 1771.

To avoid being bogged down in the many pages here, be sure to click on the “Danish Site Map” which lists each page and has a link directly to that section of the site.

If you find the description of this site to be of interest, the ProGenealogists site has similar in-depth discussions for doing genealogy in Germany, Poland, Hungary, Romania and Switzerland. There also is an addendum on genealogy in the Danish West Indies, which later became the US Virgin Islands.

Gary A. Zimmerman

FISKE LIBRARY—NEW BOOK & PUBLICATION ACQUISITIONS

California

- Diggin Up Gold on the Old Paper Trail

Connecticut

- Brief History of the First Baptist Church, Hartford
- Connecticut Nutmegger (periodical)
- Madison Heritage (CT)

Georgia

- Autauga Ancestry (GA) periodicals
- History of Coweta County from 1825-1880

Illinois

- Champaign Co. Genealogist Newsletter (periodical)

Indiana

- Hoosier Genealogist

Kentucky

- Census, Grant Co., KY

Massachusetts

- Footprints in Montgomery, MA
- History of Brockton, MA
- Puritan Village

Maine

- History of Camden and Rockport, Maine
- Maine Historical Magazine (bound), Vol. 8 & 9

Minnesota

- Minnesota Families (periodical)

North Carolina

- Stokes County (NC) Marriage Bonds, Parts 2 & 3

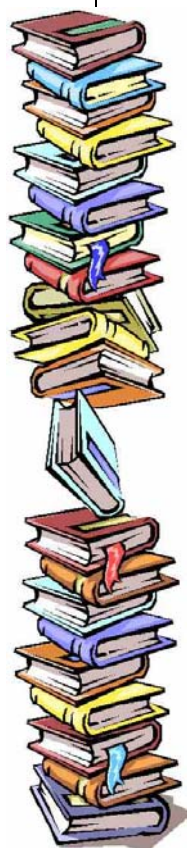
New York

- 1791 History of Herkimer Co., NY
- 1850 Census of the town of Montgomery, Orange Co.
- 1850 Census Warwick Township, Orange Co.

- Cemeteries of Chester, NY
- Cemeteries of the Town of Hamptonburg, NY
- Churchyard Records of Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, NY
- Dutch Reformed Church, New Hurley, Ulster Co., NY
- Early Records of St. James Episcopal Church of Goshen, NY
 - History of South New Berlin, Holmesville & Great Brook, NY
 - History of the Amity Presbyterian Church
 - Many past issues of the New York Gen. & Biographical register
 - New Paltz Reformed Dutch Church, etc.
 - Official Vital records from the various towns of Orange Co., NY
 - Orange County, NY Gen. Soc. publications 1971-2000
 - Records from Newburgh, New Windsor and other nearby towns
 - Records of the Associate Reformed Church, Newburgh, NY
 - Records of the Ridgebury Presbyterian church with inscriptions of nearby cemeteries, etc.
 - The Border Warfare of New York (or Annals of Tryon County)
 - Whig Press Death Notices, 1851-1865
 - Whig Press Marriage Notices, 1851-1865
 - Cemeteries of the Town of Minisink

Ohio

- History of Shelby Co., Ohio & Representative Citizens
- Vinton Co., Ohio Gen. Society



FISKE LIBRARY—NEW BOOK & PUBLICATION ACQUISITIONS

(Continued from page 4)

Oregon

- Abstracts of Obituaries from the Hermiston Herald (OR)

Pennsylvania

- Parish Registers of the 2nd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, Franklin Co
- Parish Registers, Milton, North Umberland Co., PA
- Township Map of Berks County

Tennessee

- Weakley Co., TN

Vermont

- Centennial Book of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Barton, VT

Washington

- 100 Years of the "Waterland" Community (Des Moines, WA)
- Appleland Bulletin (Wenatchee Gen. Soc.)
- Golden Grads Newsletter (Kirkland, WA)
- Mining the North Fork of Skokomish
- The Sounder (Sno-Isle Gen. Soc.)

Wisconsin

- History of Manitowoc Co., WI

Other Countries

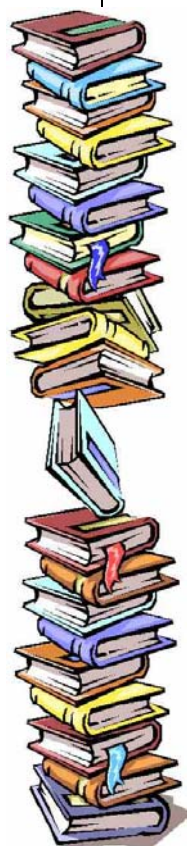
- Genealogy in Ontario - Searching the Records
- Research Guide to Loyalist Ancestors
- A Secretary Handbook (contains old Berkshire documents)
- The Voices of Morebath (England)
- Swedish American Genealogist, periodicals
- Swedish-American Historical Quarterly, per.

General Reference

- American Historical Review
- Handbook on Irish Genealogy
- Handy Tips on How to use the U.S. Census records
- Handy Tips on Immigration, Emigration and Naturalization Sources
 - Handy Tips on your Genealogical Research in New York
 - World conference on Records & Genealogical Seminar
 - New England Ancestors (periodical)
 - New York Genealogical Biographical Record (periodical)
 - The American Genealogist (periodical)

Genealogies - Alpha by Family Name

- Memoir of Isaac Allerton
- Brown Soldiers of the Mexican War Pension Abstracts
- Discovering Chandler Lines
- Freeman Family History, Vol 2
- Covered Wagon Women, Vol 1
- Gillman/Gilman Family
- Mohawk Valley Herkimers and Allied Families
- Hutchins Genealogy
- James Innes and his brothers of the FHC
- Loucks Families of New York (Vol I & II),
- Millspough-Milspaw (supplement to 1969 genealogy)
- Ancestors of Scott Mueller and Lois Fuller
- Descendants of the Revis/Reavis Family in America



(Continued on page 6)

FISKE LIBRARY—NEW BOOK &
PUBLICATION
ACQUISITIONS ...CONTINUED

(Continued from page 5)

- Robinson Family (John Robinson), Vol I
- William Sabin and His Descendants
- Genealogy of Robert Smith
- Descendants of William Towton and Nancy Spires
- Underhill Genealogy, Vol. 5
- Descendants of Martin Weddle and Johan Eiler
- Vina (Weirick)
- Whitfield History and Genealogy of Tennessee
- Descendants of John Wood, a Mariner, Vol. 2 & 3



We much appreciate these gifts which were given to Fiske Library by the following donors:

Davis, Eldon & Carol
Ford, Dorothy
Hinton, Darlene
Lane, Marion
Kennedy, Charlotte
Kumm, Karl
Loucks, H. G.
McKibbon, Mary Lou
Peters, Mary
Sprague, Dorothy
Waterman, Helen

We are also very appreciative of the LDS library in Salt Lake City who, under the direction of Printha Barfuss, sent us three boxes of books recently, and continue to be very generous with their surplus.

SNOWBIRDS, SEND US YOUR
WINTER ADDRESSES

Yes, you can receive your Fiske Newsletter during winter months while you bask in the sunshine of Arizona, New Mexico or Hawaii.

Please send the Fiske Library your winter mailing address (as well as your summer address), and the months you will be south.

You will have your Newsletter on time and at your correct address, and the Fiske Library will be saved the return postage of 65¢ each returned copy.

Carolyn Blount

VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

The Volunteers at the Fiske keep the Library open for users. Consider volunteering once a month on a regular schedule, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday afternoon or Saturdays. It's a great way to learn about the collection, and gain research expertise as you assist the regular volunteer and Library visitors.

Or perhaps you'd like to assist with a special project. We need someone to take over the book sales, processing orders, wrapping and mailing books to buyers who have found our list on the web. Mary Peters needs help checking the books on the shelves as she updates the shelf list, and people call in regularly with specific small research projects that could often be completed in an hour or so.

Please contact one of the Board members if you can help.

Carolyn Blount

VERMONT CHRONICLE MARRIAGE AND DEATH INDEX

SEPTEMBER IS THE LAST FREE MAILED NEWSLETTER!

Sylvia Manning has transcribed abstracts of the marriage and death notices from *The Vermont Chronicle* for the years 1826 to 1882. This newspaper was published weekly in Bellows Falls, Windsor and Montpelier, VT. Many of the notices are for people from outside of the state of Vermont. This may be of interest to any New England search.

A small, PicoSearch engine allows you to quickly find if a person appears in her abstracts. Try it at <http://community.middlebury.edu/~swilson> and then select "Vermont Chronicle."

If you find an entry in the index, you can request a digitized copy of the full notice in the paper from Sylvia for \$5. The index itself will identify the date and basic details of the story.

For example, a search for Enoch Allen leads to a death notice from Grand Isle that appeared in 1831. It carries a control number (#276) for that year that will track back to the image that you request from the transcriber.

Gary A. Zimmerman

Our next newsletter (fall 2005), will be the final one mailed free of charge to Fiske Library users. If you would like to continue receiving a "hard-copy" version of the newsletter *mailed* to you, there are two options:

1. Join the Fisk Library in one of two user groups:
 - a. For \$75, you are entitled to attend fall, winter and spring quarters of our education classes (ten each quarter), a full year's use of the Library, and the privilege of checking out books for \$1 per week, plus the satisfaction of supporting your favourite pastime. You will also receive copies of the quarterly Fiske Newsletter *mailed* to you.
 - b. For \$40, you have full use of the library for a year and copies of the quarterly Fiske Newsletter *mailed* to you.
2. Purchase an annual subscription to the Fiske Genealogical Society Newsletter. Ask the librarian next time you visit the library for an annual subscription to the newsletter for just \$6. You will continue to receive four issues of the newsletter per year, mailed to your home.

If you prefer to read the newsletter "on-line":

- Go to www.fiskelibrary.org and follow the prompts to subscribe to receive an e-mail when each issue of the Newsletter is ready for viewing and/or printing from the Fiske Library site.

FISKE LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Wednesday	Noon to 8:00 pm
Thursday	3:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Friday	Reserved for research groups (greater than 8 persons) from outside the greater Seattle Area. Contact the Library to make reservations.
Saturday	10:00 am to 3:00 pm
2nd Sunday of Each Month	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

ENGLISH DIRECTORIES ON-LINE

The University of Leicester has created a searchable digital library of Historical Directories at <http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/index.asp> for the period from 1750 to 1919. The project intentionally sought at least one directory for each county for the decade of the 1850's, the 1890's and the 1910's. In the 1850's directories began to be published more widely and to give locations at the parish level. The 1890's made a nice complement to the 1901 English census that is already on-line. Smaller selections of directories will be made for each county in the wider time ranges. It is not intended to cover every year with every directory. (Most of the cost of this project was funded by a grant from the National Lottery Fund.)

If you pick English or Welsh County in the "find by location" section, you will then get a listing of the directories available and the dates covered by each book.

Twenty-one different directories for the county of Kent have been digitized at this time. The earliest is Pigot's Directory of Kent, 1824. If you look at the "fact file," it will give you details of the publication and show the main headings of the book. You can click on one of the headings and it will take you directly to that section of the database. When you search for a name, the engine will report how many hits were in the book and then you move from hit to hit through the entire volume. On each page, the desired search word is highlighted in yellow so it is easy to see. The images can be enlarged so that the text is very legible in your internet browser.

If you wish to download the image as a .PDF file that also is available, but you lose the colored flag at the search word. You cannot search for a given word in these .PDF files since they are treated by the Adobe Reader as a photograph. The .PDF file, however, may be more versatile in cutting and pasting if you only want a small section of a page to retain for your records. You can save the .PDF file to your desktop and then use a selection tool to encircle just that section of the directory page that you are interested in, increase it in size and then transfer it to your clipboard. When dropped into a word file it can then be printed for permanent retention.

Gary A. Zimmerman

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	Gary A. Zimmerman	SECRETARY	Carolyn Blount
LIBRARIAN	Mary Stevenson	TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	David Brazier
TREASURER	Ann Owens		

FISKE AUCTION MAY 21, 2005 AT THE PETERS

Thunder, lightening and torrential rains did not dampen the spirits of Fiske Library users at the home of Mary and Frank Peters.

Frank had prepared chicken and salmon both baked and barbecued, served with salad greens from the Peters' own garden.

Auction items ranged from a week in Betty Kay's Maui condo and the Peters' cabin on Puget Sound to many varieties of plants, music boxes and a hand knit shawl.

Guests went home filled with good food, good conversation and new treasures, while the Fiske netted over \$1,500 for new books for the Library.

Carolyn Blount



Mary Peters & Fiske Bookshelves!

FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation Newsletter is published four times per year by the Fiske Genealogical Foundation, 1644 43rd Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112; phone (206) 328-2716 email gzim@fiskelibrary.org web site <http://www.fiskelibrary.org>

The Fiske Genealogical Foundation is a non-profit service organization that provides genealogical training, resource materials and support to members.

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FISKE GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

Wednesday Seminar Series
(10 sessions) \$30.

Annual Library Membership \$40.

Annual Couple Membership \$60.

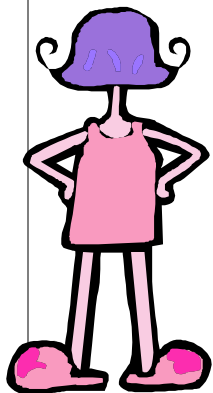
Annual Library Membership
plus Full Year Seminar Series
(30 sessions) \$75

Newsletter -Subscription Only
4 Issues—\$6

MARY PETERS—LOOKING BACK

One Saturday about twenty years ago while Frank and I were out hitting the garage and rummage sales, we ventured into Seattle Genealogical Society's sale. I started talking with Helen Waterman about genealogy and the next thing I knew I was signed up for the beginning class with Marilyn Rose. A few months later at the archives, I met Mary Stoebuck who told me about the Fiske library on Queen Anne hill and Arthur Fiske who would certainly be able to help me. My first "look and see" visit had me signed up for his classes and I was on my way to being a fully addicted genealogist. Another person who has helped me in my search was Marjie Michelson who volunteered at the North Stake Library. I remember asking her to go with me to Salt Lake City and help me. She said she would once I was ready and she showed me how to prepare. A year later we went. My first trip was a fantasy—I found more that trip than I dreamed possible. Just like all first timers.

My favorite ancestor is Wilhelm Karl Gross or Karl Wilhelm Grosse or Dr. William Gross. He was a felder in the Hessian Army who elected to remain in this new country after his discharge on 10 June 1783 in Philadelphia. He and his doctor friend went to Fredericktown, MD, where he married Margaret Burckhardtin on 11 September 1783. This was my father's ggg grandfather. So I proved my line and have a certificate from the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association acknowledging that I am a direct descendant of a Hessian soldier. I have taken this family down to the current generations and keep putting off writing that book.



My DAR ancestor was William Elston Collings who also fought in the War of 1812. During the Pigeon Roost Massacre in Clark Co., Indiana, William fought with the Indians who knew what a great shot he was so they ran from him when he just pointed the gun at them. This was good because the gun

had jammed (or so the newspaper reports say). It's a good story anyway. Actually only nine people of the community of 40 survive. Fortunately, for me, one was Sichey Richey. How's that for a name? My aunt had remembered that her grandmother's grandmother had survived the Pigeon Roost Massacre, but could not remember which one had said it. So this was a great first search.

My mother's side has my earliest immigrant, that being William Marston who helped found Hampton, NH. I shared Isaac Sheldon with Arthur and several others at Fiske. I found a John C. Pixley in my line and after my father's death, learned that he and one of his best friends, Morris Pixley, were distant cousins. I have many surnames that come from Berks and Schuylkill Counties, Pennsylvania. They are Berger, Moyer, Kemmerling, Webber, Lasch, Hain, Fischer, Schrope, Fessler, Nagel, Berlet, Machener, Werth, Faust, Bauer, and Richards.

When Arthur became ill, I began helping teach or arrange for speakers for the Wednesday morning classes. He also taught me to carry on his way of cataloging all the new books. It has been my pleasure to continue doing this. I now know the excitement and pleasure he had when a box of books came in for the library. I volunteer the fourth Wednesday of the month and have been active with the Friends of the Fiske Genealogical Foundation since its beginning. Two years ago, my husband Frank was volunteered to cook for our auction night, which became a dinner and auction night. It was so successful that he is doing it again. In fact, I volunteer him frequently—drive a van on Betty Kay's trips (three times), build bookcases, haul books to name a few.

(Continued on page 11)

MARY PETERS—LOOKING BACK...CONTINUED

(Continued from page 10)

One of the nicest things about being a genealogist is meeting cousins and traveling to ancestors' hometowns. The first time I stood on property in Lomira, WI, that had been cleared by my ggg grandfather, Caleb Marston, I was so overwhelmed by the feelings that came to me that I want to find as many ancestors' lands as possible. Thus my strong interest in land records and maps. So far, I have made it to lands of Caleb Antrim, William Berger, Lewis Moyer, John Lasch, Henry Kemmerling, John Pixley, William Gross, and John Richey.

A "small world" fact: The property we bought on Lopez Island once belonged to a Richey who is also descended from Sichey Richey.

Frank and I will celebrate our 45th anniversary this year. We have a son, a daughter-in-law and a daughter. My best job in the whole world was taking care of Michael, our first grandchild, for the first 18 months of his life. He even came to genealogy classes. Our other grandson is Matthew. We enjoy having them live close enough to see them often and spend special days with them. As retirees, we are living our dreams of traveling and enjoying our life to the fullest.

RESEARCH NOTEBOOKS WORTH A LOOK!

Notebooks of family research material (previously hidden in the very back of the library), were moved to a more prominent place near the front of the library and are contained in the new bookshelves (thanks to Mary and Frank Peters).

Information contained in the notebooks does not really "fit" in any other place in the library. They do not contain complete family histories, so the notebooks are a holding place for family research notes, etc. Most began with family "group sheets" for people researched by Arthur Fiske, or by one of his students. They have now grown into numerous volumes that are filed alphabetically.

These notebooks might just contain that illusive gem of information you've been searching for! Definitely worth looking at!

Mary Stevenson

SUMMER PICNIC AT BETTY KAY ANDERSONS

Fiske Library Volunteers and users are invited to the annual summer picnic at Betty Kay Anderson and her husband's home in Union.

Place: Hood Canal at East 10111, Highway 106.

Date: Saturday, July 23, 2005

Time: 11:00 a.m.

The Seattle-Bremerton ferries leave at 8:45 and 10:15. The Andersons furnish seafood and library members add their favorite potluck dish to the feast. Their deck is large, the view magnificent, the food delicious. It's perfect time to get acquainted and renew friendships in a relaxing and beautiful setting.

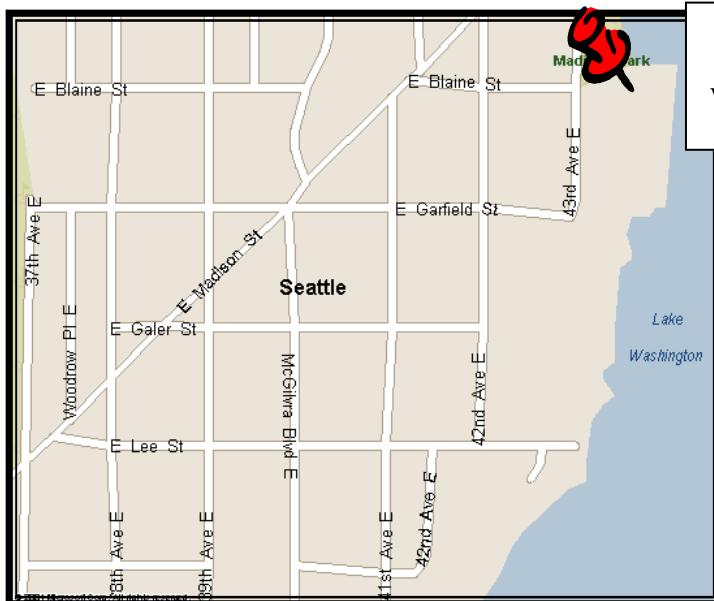


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HOW TO FIND US!



**Fiske Library is located
on the lower level of the
Washington Pioneer Hall.**

- Drive east on East Madison Street until you see a Starbucks Coffee shop to your left, and a one way street sign ahead.
- Ease to your right and follow East Blaine Street to the end of the street.
- The Washington Pioneer Hall faces onto 43rd Ave. East. The Fiske Genealogical Library is located on the lower level of the building.